

COAL STRIKE ACTION BEGINS.

OPERATORS START IN TO-DAY TO PROTECT THEIR PROPERTY.

Mine Workers, by Calling Out Engineers and others, Have Taken the Position of Being Willing to Destroy Property to Bring Employers to Terms—Blitzkrieg Begins at Once—Mines Not to be Allowed to Become Flooded—Many Fear That Violence Is Near—Protestation for those Who Remain at Work.

WILKES-BARRE, Pa., June 1.—To-morrow night will begin the coal miners' strike and it will enter upon a new phase. Then comes the era of active hostilities. Hostile forces have been gathered. It has been a season of preparation. On the part of the miners there has been a diligent attempt to prepare the way for attack by proclamation of grievances, offers of arbitration and other tactful measures calculated to draw attention to the real issue in dispute. On the part of the operators there has been only silence. No sounds came from behind their entrenchments save those of secret preparation for long and bitter resistance.

Now comes the Mine Workers' Union resolved in drawing the enemy's fire. Two weeks ago in the call for the strike came the miners' first threat of actual aggression. To-morrow in the attempt to withdraw the engineers, firemen and pump men the aggression actually begins. In all that the Mine Workers' Union has done heretofore the mine operators were able to remain both passive and silent. That which the Mine Workers' Union proposes to do unmasks the operators are absolutely compelled to react.

Withdrawing the miners from the mines was simply a blow at the production of coal. Withdrawing the men whose labor protects the mine from filling with water is a blow which in many instances is a vital blow—more precisely itself.

When Mr. Mitchell's great Mine Workers' Trust, through its absolute monopoly of all the mining labor in the region, says to the miners, "We will not protect you," such an order is one thing. When it says, "You shall not protect your mining from us," that is quite a different matter. But it should be borne in mind, of course, that Mr. Mitchell's labor trust is not the only going concern in the field of coal production. The strikers will not go far until they actually try by force to prevent the operators from pumping the mines. All that Mr. Mitchell's union has done thus far has done is to take the most extreme measure to provoke the operators to a point of inquiry that it is possibly could take and still be within the law. It is the last act of overt oppression of their side since the strike began. The first act that absolutely compels immediate and stern resistance.

RAD TACTICS BY MITCHELL.

Sergeants and the management of strikes are old stories in the anthracite country. Residents of anything like long standing have become more or less expert in the science of strike warfare. Most of these experts, looking on at the struggle as it developed in the coal regions, were of the opinion that it was one thing. When it says, "You shall not protect your mining from us," that is quite another.

Upon receiving this report Mr. McAndrew to-day issued the following order:

"No. 1. To all engineers, firemen, and pump men who attended the above meeting of the said craftsmen named above:

"After receiving the report of the committee of the Mine Workers' Union, I am advised

that the miners, in order to keep the steam men from remaining at their posts almost to a man. At two-thirds of the colliers in Scranton, the steam men, with the exception of the firemen, it is thought, will stand by the mine owners about 25 per cent. and the firemen are expected to join the strikers. It is said that the Lackawanna firemen will pay little heed to the McAndrew order, because he is an engineer. The deputies of Sheriff Schmitz of this city were very anxious to have the miners staying at their posts and the firemen removed from company property and from interfering with other workers. Sheriff Schmitz is a firm official and it is said will put down all attempts at rioting with an iron hand. That there will be disturbance of some sort here is expected and by every one."

The above reads as follows: "I am advised that the lackeys have taken up arms to jump into the river during heavy rains. The decision of the meeting was that no one should be permitted to swim across the river, and the strikers will do it, but as many as wished could pick the same for private consumption. Reports made to me that the miners have been armed and ready to attack, ridiculous, as they must resort to violence to prevent the miners from being pumped."

With the latter course would mean it is not difficult to guess. The Sheriff of Lackawanna county has already passed proclamations to the effect that no one is to be allowed to have any weapons of any kind, and warning all persons not having authority to be there to keep away from the premises. Many of the mining properties are already fenced in with tall board fences and barbed wire, stretching their arms. Within these fortifications, so commanding the pumping machinery will be fed in those.

It must be a formidable mob that would venture to assault these men under such circumstances, and when an assault would surely mean a fearful loss of life, for a single, well-aimed, heavy bullet need well protect all mining premises at whatever cost. But that is not all. At the first symptoms of serious trouble, in some communities, at least, there will be at once a call on the governor for troops and when the troops come that is the beginning of the end.

Old and wise observers of strike troubles here are saying that Mr. Mitchell has had bad advice; that he has been entrapped into making a serious mistake in bringing his cause and upon the community to sustain itself. Those who know the miners of this region have but little faith in Mr. Mitchell being able to restrain them. They have already shown symptoms of violence, and are threatening to bring coal and iron from banks something which no man involved in the strike have been assured and their wagons wrecked. How will it be next week when these violent spirits see the strike of the engineers, firemen and pump men going on as though nothing had happened?

REASON FOR FEARS OF TROUBLE.

In spite of Mr. Mitchell's assurances that the strikers will be less wilting and in spite of his telegraphic instructions to them not to keep within the straight and narrow path, there are plenty of people here who do not share his optimism.

Secondly, there are those who fear that before another Sunday comes around there may be serious trouble. Those who know the miners of this region have but little faith in Mr. Mitchell being able to restrain them. They have already shown symptoms of violence, and are threatening to bring coal and iron from banks something which no man involved in the strike have been assured and their wagons wrecked. How will it be next week when these violent spirits see the strike of the engineers, firemen and pump men going on as though nothing had happened?

STRIKERS HERD PINKERTON'S.

Report from Pittsville that the Miners Have Used their Services.

POTTSVILLE, Pa., June 1.—It is said here that for the first time in the history of these organizations, Pinkerton detectives have been employed by the strikers. During the past two weeks it became known to officials of the United Mine Workers that men from New York and Philadelphia were being brought to the anthracite coal region by the corporations to act as deputies.

The officials of the miners, acting through lawyers in Philadelphia, hired Pinkerton detectives to trace up the records of the suspected men as soon as their names were learned. The result of the investigation by the corporation is now in the hands of the strike leaders. It is said that the Pinkerton men did not know that they were in the employ of strikers.

At 9 o'clock to-night trolleys containing several hundred Coal and Iron employees were sent to the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company. All the non-union pump men who will take the place of the strikers were ordered to report for work before daybreak to-morrow morning. The men who take the place of the strikers will not return home for several weeks. It will not be safe for them to do so.

STRIKE COSTING \$5,000,000 A WEEK.

The fourth week of the strike begins tomorrow. Allowing the miners six days a week to work, the operators will market the coal for the miners for the three weeks of June \$30,000,000, the loss to other employers put out of work because of the strike is \$600,000, the loss to the operators

is \$7,000,000. Thus the loss to date by the strike to employers and employees is \$39,000. The business men of the region estimate their loss at approximately \$25,000.

A secret meeting of railroad men was held at Ashley tonight which was attended by Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Estley of the Mine Workers' Union, and Mr. Wilson, Vice-president and Master of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen. The meeting was made up of representatives of the firemen, engineers, trainmen, conductors and railroad telegraphers' unions. By a vote of 20 to 15 it was decided that the rules of their respective unions which set the rules of their respective orders would permit them to do so.

The engineers and firemen of the Susquehanna Coal Company's mines, by a vote of 52 to 25 decided not to strike for and against a strike are.

Districts	Locomotives	Steam
No. 1	150	125
No. 2	200	225
No. 3	150	110
No. 4	200	120
No. 5	800	125
No. 6	900	110
No. 7	250	120
No. 8	300	130

Total 2,650 1,825

THESE MEN TO STAY AT WORK.

STRATTON, Pa., June 1.—The committee of Lackawanna steam men sent to see John Mitchell of the Miners' Union at Wilkes-Barre and bearing the resolution asking that the strike order of June 2 be declared off-shoots of the city on their return from Wilkes-Barre at 10 o'clock last night, right after the miners had voted to strike, made this report to J. M. Andrew, the chairman of last Wednesday's meeting of the Lackawanna steam men.

To Mr. John J. Andrew, President:

We, your committee appointed to present the report of the Lackawanna steam men to you, the chairman of the Executive Committee of the United Mine Workers' Union, call upon you to consider the following:

Our decision of the question of issue was informed that the order could not be recalled without giving notice to the miners, and we called our committee to meet and voted to recall our committee report they have already raised. This was submitted.

This complaint alleged that they had negligently operated an automobile upon the public highway, causing the death of Andrew Etherston without felonious or culpable design to effect such death.

The prisoners were without counsel, only Mr. White, brother-in-law of Mr. Baker, and two other friends being in court with them, and the Magistrate carefully advised them as to their legal rights before calling upon them to plead. Both said,

"No guilty." The Magistrate said he should not try the case on Sunday and would hold them for examination before Magistrate March in the Second district, in which the accident occurred, at 10 o'clock on Monday morning and would commit them to the custody of the police until such time, when they could ask for an examination and the giving of bail.

While the examinations were taken from the hospital house, Physician Jackson told the police that they were not seriously injured and were not in need of medical attendance and they were driven to the station house at Stapleton and locked up there to await trial.

J. J. McAndrews, chairman:

The action taken by Mitchell was expected and has occasioned no surprise. Reports from Dickson City indicate that the steam men in only one mine, the Johnson, are expected to follow in the wake of the miners of the other mines.

The miners of the Lackawanna steam men will remain to the last to the men running the plant, and only then leave the party.

But most of all they regard it as bad because it puts his labor trust in the position of the aggressor and of being destroyed. This public opinion is widespread.

Furthermore, it is believed that in precipitating this crisis Mr. Mitchell has brought upon his cause a grave danger.

The places of all engineers, firemen and pump men who quit the mines will be filled at once.

The miners will be compelled to work in many instances, and the miners themselves will be compelled to work in many instances.

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